

Dover Elementary School, San Pablo, California



Cleanup Work at Dover Elementary School

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet is being distributed to the community to provide information regarding environmental work done at Dover Elementary School this past school year to remove old light fixtures containing PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). Dover Elementary School is located at 1871 21st Street in San Pablo, California.

In September 2002, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) investigated a complaint that ballasts (part of fluorescent light fixtures) had leaked PCBs in a classroom. PCBs are man-made chemicals hazardous to people and the environment.

DTSC and the West Contra Costa County Unified School District (District) worked together to identify all suspected light ballasts containing PCBs at Dover Elementary School and replace them with new ones.

On October 18, 2002, the District informed DTSC that all suspected ballasts had been removed and replaced with new ones. New ballasts do not contain PCBs.

Community Resources

Listed below are several sources of additional information and individuals to contact. Information is also available for review in the Information Repositories listed on page 3 of this fact sheet.

www.dtsc.ca.gov provides general information about the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

www.dtsc.ca.gov/schools/schools.html provides additional information regarding the Department of Toxic Substances Control work regarding schools.

The following individuals are also available to answer your questions:

Michael Lozano
Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-6523
email: mlozano@dtsc.ca.gov

Rachelle Maricq
Public Participation Specialist
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3910
email: rmaricq@dtsc.ca.gov

For Media calls contact:
Angela Blanchette
Public Information Officer
(510) 540-3732
email: ablanchette@dtsc.ca.gov

*DTSC is one of six
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the California
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Protection Agency.
The Department's
mission is to restore,
protect and enhance
the environment,
ensure public health,
environmental
quality and
economic vitality,
by regulating
hazardous waste,
conducting and
overseeing
cleanups, and
developing
and promoting
pollution prevention.*

State of California



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What are PCB's?

Florescent lamp ballasts manufactured prior to 1979 contain polychlorinated biphenyls known as PCBs. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has classified all PCBs as probable cancer-causing substances. As long as the PCBs remain in the ballasts they do not pose a health risk or an environmental hazard. It is perfectly legal and safe to use non-leaking PCB-containing light fixtures. There is only a risk when older light fixtures leak and an individual comes into direct contact with the PCBs. This is why U.S. EPA recommends the removal of all pre-1979 fluorescent light ballasts in schools to prevent accidental exposure to PCBs from leaks.

What has DTSC done at Dover Elementary School?

DTSC has reviewed data submitted by the District and has determined that no further action is necessary and that the school is safe. Supporting information can be found in the document, "Impact of Polychlorinated Biphenyls at the Dover Elementary School," available for review in the Information Repositories listed at the end of this fact sheet.

After DTSC responded to the complaint in September 2002, samples were taken at the school and low levels of PCBs were found. DTSC advised the District to replace all light ballasts suspected of containing PCBs. The District informed DTSC in October 2002 that the light ballasts had been replaced and all visible leaks had been cleaned up.

In February 2003, trace levels of residual PCBs were detected in some classrooms. Confirmation samples were taken and submitted to DTSC for review in early spring 2003. DTSC determined based on the information provided by the District that the low remaining levels of PCBs do not pose a threat to public health and the environment.

Where can I find more information?

If you would like additional information, the following information repositories contain documents for public review. Information repositories are locations that store all reports and documents regarding cleanup work at a site. If you have questions or need assistance regarding the information repositories for Dover Elementary School, please call Ms. Rachelle Maricq at (510) 540-3910.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710-2721
Call for appointment (510)540-3800

Contra Costa County Public Library
2500 El Portal Drive, Suite D
San Pablo, CA 94806
Call for hours (510)374-3998

Tocante preguntas sobre el proyecto de la **escuela Dover** favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Departamento de Control de Sustancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3933.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach Rachelle Maricq, Public Participation Specialist, at (510) 540-3910.